

# MOUTH OF THE RIVER

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

DURHAM, NH 03824

ISSUE ONE

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## ALLEN'S PLANS FOR THE YEAR



**Adelia Couser**  
Editor in Chief

Strolling purposefully through the hallways, the principal of ORHS takes a refreshing breath of fresh air. He smells the determination and excitement that always accompanies a new school year. He directs lost freshmen to their classrooms, a beacon of light even in this difficult adjustment period from summer to school.

Todd Allen was the interim (or "temporary") principal of the high school last year. "During the spring, the school board voted to keep him as the permanent principal of the high school, and he accepted," says assistant principal Sara Wotton. Therefore, at the start of the 2012-2013 school year, Allen will be taking charge of ORHS for good.

Along with the new administrative position, Allen also has a new set of plans for the high school this year. He explains that he wants to make adjustments to policies such as open campus, elective offerings, and rules on dance etiquette.

As the interim principal last year, Allen admits that he encountered some obstacles that were difficult to overcome. "Any time you do anything, you can look back and say, 'I could've done that differently' or 'I could have done that better.'" he says. This year, he wants to talk to students more and spend time in the classrooms observing teachers.

Allen concludes that he'd like to continue with the positive "climate" at ORHS. "One thing I've always loved about Oyster River is the way this place feels; students like teachers, they like being where they are, and I hope to keep it that way. I hope the juniors and seniors set a positive tone for the underclassmen. I'm excited for this year; I think it'll be a good one," he adds.



Mr. Allen's address to the school board last year.

### LOOK FOR THESE CHANGES IN THE 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR...

**OPEN CAMPUS.** This is a policy that allows juniors and seniors to leave school during unscheduled time. "There have been problems in the past with trying to make [open campus] work," says Allen, "so this year we're going to tighten it up in some ways and broaden it in other ways."

Allen explains that students must have a high enough GPA to qualify for open campus, they need to sign in and out upon entering and exiting the school, and they have to leave using the front door. "We want to know where kids are and what they're doing," says Allen of these requirements. "In the past, people have used every door to leave—that was the main cause of the 15- and 20-minute fire drills last year. Kids were unaccounted for and we were trying to track them down." Allen adds that if a student refuses to handle their open campus privileges responsibly, then the privileges will be taken away.

**DANCE RULES.** "Grinding is a suggestive and provocative style of dancing that makes other people uncomfortable, and this style of dancing will not be allowed anymore at school dances. We're going to be more vigilant about enforcing appropriate dance-style rules," says Allen. "This is because we want to make a comfortable environment for everyone—the students, the teachers, and even the parents." Allen explains that dance chaperones will walk up to students who are dancing inappropriately and ask them to stop. If they don't stop, the chaperones will ask them to leave the dance floor. If they continue to dance inappropriately, the chaperones will ask them to leave the dance. "I know that some kids will say, 'Well, the kids who don't like that environment shouldn't come to the dances,'" states Allen, "but that's not the way it works. [The new policy] is probably not going to make me very popular, but that's why I do this job."

**ELECTIVES.** "Some classes have low enrollments, but they're classes that kids like to take," says Allen. He gives examples of Fiber Arts, Accounting, and Video Production. "We're going to work on talking them up to kids so we get higher enrollments—otherwise taxpayers in the community will ask why they're paying taxes so we can have a class with four students in it."

**COMMON CORE.** "There's a new set of standards the high school has to meet called 'Common Core,'" says Allen. According to their website ([www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)), the Common Core State Standards Initiative is a set of knowledge and skills students should have before graduating high school. "Teachers will read these standards, determine how we're meeting them, and adjust the curriculum accordingly," explains Allen. "It's a multi-year [process]; this year, the goal is just to get familiar with it."

# THE MR. BOBCAT TRADITION



"Mr. Bobcat is one of the best times an immature boy can ever have. It's an awesome tradition, because all the competitors have a great sense of humor," says Oyster River senior class president, Brennan Young, who competed in the 7th annual Mr. Bobcat this past Thursday.

**Corey Scarano**  
**News Editor**

The Mr. Bobcat competition is a school-funded event usually placed on the Thursday evening of spirit week. Friends, family, and fellow students pay to see brave senior boys compete in contests of formal wear, Q&A, swim wear, the limbo, push-ups, and a talent contest. Six student judges score each event on a point scale. The winner usually gets around \$50 in cash, followed by \$30 for runner up and \$10 for third place.

Senior Zack Jones says, "I think this event is great because it appeals to parents and students. My mom said she couldn't stop laughing the whole time."

*"I think this event is great because it appeals to parents and students. My mom said she couldn't stop laughing the whole time."*

The show started off with questions for the guys to answer. First, all the contestants were all asked to recite their favorite pick up line. These varied from just a simple, "Hi" from Travis Hackett to a more suggestive "Your clothes would look a lot better on my bedroom floor" from Julien Pelletier. Questions were then asked along the lines of, "What is your ideal girl?" and "Describe yourself in one word." More often than not, illegitimate answers were given. The answers had to be thought of on the spot and were more aimed towards giving the crowd a good laugh than being serious.



*Brennan Young doing his talent. (Photo courtesy of Allie Harris)*

the bar was dropped lower. All boys put up a good fight for this one, but height or flexibility eliminated several quickly. The final round was between Aaron Slepian and Brennan Young. Young couldn't amount to the flexibility Slepian had, and he fell to the ground after attempting the lowest bar. Slepian then completed this bar level and celebrated by flexing his muscles to the audience.

The first competition was swim wear, where there was clearly no dress code. Rye Morrill sported a patriotic speedo, making the crowd roar. One mother stood up and hollered loudly. Other contestants accompanied Morrill on-stage wearing Hawaiian printed shirts or trunks, and Travis Hackett threw beach balls to the crowd.

Next was the limbo competition. Each time the full rotation of boys went through,



*Zach Park performing his talent at Mr. Bobcat. (Photo credit: Ian Avery-Leaf)*

For the pushup contest, judge Shauna Bulger counted and cued the boys. By the time 30 pushups came around, it was a battle between just Seamus Clancy and Aaron Slepian. The crowd cheered in anticipation; who would take the title for the strongest senior boy? Both boys' arms started to visibly quiver and Clancy flopped to the ground. Slepian once again celebrated by flexing his biceps to the crowd. Clancy comments, "This was probably my least favorite part; I thought I had that one in the bag."

Talents came next, the most anticipated event to watch because whether a contestant has a legitimate talent or not, he must get up in front of approximately 100 people and perform alone for 90 seconds. Some memorable talents in the past have been a mini circus by Jamie Wilkinson, original poems by Peter Krumpe, and impressive piano playing by Andrew Sullivan. But this year Zach Park gave them a run for their money; he jumped over 12 kneeling boys and then broke a thick piece of wood held at the end with his foot.

The most memorable talent performance of the night was the most unpredictable one, a talent that made the crowd go wild. Brennan Young came onstage in a leotard and performed the famous "Single Ladies" dance by Beyoncé. He says, "The most fun part of Mr. Bobcat is seeing a bunch of goofy guys embarrass themselves in front of an audience. Laughter is one of the greatest things and if you're able to laugh at yourself, it's even better."

Other talents included ripping phone books apart by Julien Pelletier, opera singing by Nathaniel Spence, lacrosse tricks by Seamus Clancy, marshmallow mouth catching by Billy Salmon, and street drums by Jake Smith.

After much laughter and cheering from the crowd, the show was over and it was time to announce the Mr. Bobcat from the class of 2013. Seamus Clancy was crowned 3rd, Brennan Young was crowned 2nd, and Mr. Bobcat went to Aaron Slepian! Having admitted he didn't think he had a change of winning going into this competition, Slepian was ecstatic! He says, "Actually hearing it announced and knowing that I got \$50 cash was sick! I was so pumped up and also sort of relieved and surprised because I was going into it not thinking I could win."



## HELLO, MR. PRESIDENT!



**Adelia Couser**  
Editor in Chief

The Oyster River High School gymnasium filled with noise as hundreds of townspeople shuffled into the bleachers. A giant stage loomed overhead, adorned with a large American flag situated behind a podium. Just outside the door, Secret Service agents and local firemen waited in case an emergency arose. The crowd rose to its feet with a unanimous roar when President Barack Obama entered the very gymnasium where students have played team volleyball.

This was ORHS on June 25, the day on which the President came to the small town of Durham for his first official campaign visit to New Hampshire.

Close to 2,000 people showed up to hear the President speak and were willing to spend hours in the pouring rain before entering the building at noon. An estimated 1,200 waited a further two hours in the crowded gymnasium and another 750 were situated in a nearby "overflow" room before the President was scheduled to arrive.

"I'm so totally excited that he's here," said local resident and Obama campaign volunteer Linda Gutman while waiting in line. "I think he's on track with what we need to do in order to have a kinder, gentler, peaceful nation."

"An opportunity to see the President only comes around once in a great while," added Mark Pappas, a Social Studies teacher at Oyster River High School. "I think this is a great event for the town."

While a great majority of attendees were supporters of Obama, there was also a handful of protesters lining the street in front of the high school holding signs with messages such as "Obama isn't working" and questioning the President's plan to aid small businesses.

*"I hope that having the president visit [ORHS] will be a real point of pride for our school and community."*

"Obama says the private sector is doing fine when it is not," stated an anonymous protester. "The businesses and entrepreneurship...it's not doing well at all." Another protester agreed, saying, "There are many of us who feel that he should not be our president anymore."

A second issue that arose was the question of who would pay for the President's visit. After being notified by the Obama Campaign that Durham had been selected as the site for the President's next campaign stop, Durham officials sent a request to the campaign asking that the town be reimbursed for the security costs, which could reach up to \$30,000. Obama for America declined the request. Just days before the event, Durham officials made the announcement that a town resident had made an anonymous \$20,000 donation to cover the overtime costs of Durham police and firefighters.

Not everyone was happy with this donation. "I was really glad that someone stepped up to the plate, and I have to say that I was disappointed that the town council was making some waves about the presidential visit," states Gutman. "My feeling about that is that the town should be honored that he's visiting and I was disappointed that they would be, at least appearing to be, complaining about that."



*President Barack Obama greets an enthusiastic crowd in the ORHS gymnasium on June 25, 2012.*

Others held more forgiving opinions toward Durham officials. ORHS senior Sam Lewis said that the town council's hesitation to pay the fee was "completely right. It's not like Durham has the money to spare. [The town] shouldn't be using taxpayer dollars to support a candidate that's running."

Such an event requires rigorous preparation from all parties involved. Chris Devitt and Chris Sheppard are two photographers from WMUR News 9, and they were up as early as 3:00am editing previous footage of the President and gathering new footage for the event. They interviewed townspeople about what they expected to hear from the president and covered Obama's speech live from inside the gymnasium at 2:00pm. They ended with a night report at 6:00pm, bringing the daily total to 15 hours of work on one event alone—nearly twice as long as a photographer's regular eight-hour work day. There were also several tech people working nonstop from the day before the event to the day after in order to set up the gym.

In addition to the professional journalists, four students from the high school attended the event and were granted access to the official press section. Last year's MOR staff members Annika Barth, Adelia Couser, Liam Cooney, and Laurel Gibson each wrote an article that covered a different part of the event: the anonymous \$20,000 donation, the preparation for the event, the community's reaction, and the President's speech itself.

"I feel kind of important now," said Annika Barth in an interview with Portsmouth Herald writer Joey Cresta.

The event drew many New Hampshire politicians to the small town, including state senator Amanda Merrill, former state senator Katie Wheeler, and state representative David Waters. ORHS principal Todd Allen said he was honored to have these people in his school and called the event "a historic day" for the district.

"I hope that having the president visit our school will be a real point of pride for our school and community," said Allen. "As the principal, it was definitely a high point from my perspective."



# EXCHANGE STUDENTS



**Adelia Couser**  
Editor in Chief

Have you noticed any new faces around the high school this year?

(Besides the freshmen.)

If the answer is yes, you may have seen an exchange student!

This year, ORHS is hosting four exchange students from different countries: Sarah Tanssens (Belgium), Renata Schaefer (Mexico), Paul Schuetgens (Germany), and Michele Milia (Italy). They will be staying with families within the community for the duration of the school year, families which include our very own senior Sophie Casella and juniors Catherine Geiger and Eliza Balch.

"I was so nervous at first to have another person living in my house with my family and me," admits Casella. "I've never had a sister, so I had no idea what to expect." However, Casella says that hosting an exchange student has been a "great experience" so far, and adds that she and her exchange student, Renata Schaefer, are best friends. "[Renata] has shared so much of her culture with us, and I love it!"

Principal Todd Allen explains how the exchange process works. "We're part of a recognized exchange program that helps place [exchange] students in schools," he says, "and we work with about three organizations. An exchange program will contact us through the Guidance department and make arrangements to send an exchange student to our school. If we have space in the school, we discuss if we can take them."

The three organizations ORHS works with are American Field Study (AFS), International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), and Cultural Homestay International. All three are recognized exchange programs.

Allen says that there are certain things required of an exchange student. "[They] have proven themselves to be good students, and mostly fluent if not completely fluent in

*"I was so nervous at first to have another person living in my house with my family and me...I've never had a sister, so I had no idea what to expect."*  
-Sophie Casella



*Sophie Casella (right) and her exchange student Renata Schaefer smile happily after a day of apple picking.*

English. We usually accept three students every year. This year we made an exception and took a fourth."

Every exchange student needs a host family, and high school guidance counselor Heather Machanoff explains how families are chosen. "Usually host families have children who have known an exchange student, researched exchange programs, and wanted their own exchange student. They can also be people in the community who've had students in the school, or parents who were exchange students themselves," says Machanoff. "Sometimes we get a call from an agency who says they have an exchange student who needs a home, and so we'll send an email to interested families."

Casella says the process her family went through to get an exchange student was difficult. "It required lots of paperwork, interviews and meetings with workers from the exchange agency. They do a lot of background checks, face-to-face meetings, and house evaluations to make sure the host family is eligible and fit to take on another family member. They also need to make sure it is safe for the student coming over."

Junior Kai Forcey-Rodriguez was an exchange student through AFS last year who traveled to the Netherlands. He stayed with a family who had seven children and attended a public school where all of his classes were in Dutch. In addition to traveling with his host family and taking 12 classes, he swam and played soccer with a local sports club. The AFS organization also took the exchange students on field trips to cultural events, museums, and places like Berlin, Germany.

"I had a great time there," says Forcey-Rodriguez. "I'm glad that I did it. It is an experience I would recommend to anyone who wants to take a gap year, study abroad, or [be an] exchange [student]."

He says that in order to go abroad, he went to the AFS website, filled out an application, and received a letter of recommendation from a teacher. "You have to have no lower than a 2.8 GPA to be accepted, and the tuition varies per country," says Forcey-Rodriguez. (Cont. on page 6 under EXCHANGE STUDENTS)



*Kai Forcey-Rodriguez stands with friends he made during his exchange trip to the Netherlands.*



# 

### ORHS CAFETERIA UNDERGOES MAJOR CHANGES



Adelia Couser  
Editor in Chief

While students may have complained about long lines and sparse amounts of food in the ORHS cafeteria at the beginning of the year, new cafeteria manager Tim Kenaley assures the student body that the staff is working to quickly resolve these issues.

He explains that a majority of the problems were caused by the school's recent transfer from their previous cafeteria software ("Meal-Time") to a new system called Meal Magic. "The cafeteria system

enables students and parents to upload money onto their account from home," Kenaley says. "The money then appears very quickly into their account, and parents can check the account balance throughout the year."

According to Kenaley, the system is brand new, having just been installed in August. For this reason, several students saw a change in their regular cafeteria routines.

"The food isn't that great," says Tim Springer, a sophomore at ORHS. Senior Rebecca Taylor agrees; "There's not as much variety anymore, and the lines are slower."

The slow lines at the beginning of the year were caused by the cafeteria workers' efforts to get adjusted to the new system. Kenaley advises students that in order to reduce their time spent in line, they should press the "enter" button after typing their ID number into the keypad. "This can also be done by the register person on the computer," he notes, "but if the student does it, it just speeds up the process."

The cafeteria manager says that the system also affects the food they serve during lunch. "When we add new food, we have to get new buttons and pricing in the system, so it takes some

time," he explains. "But we're working on fixing the problem. Day by day, we're adding more and more."

Kenaley's previous job was at J&J's Restaurant in Barrington, where he worked as a kitchen manager. However, he claims that he adjusting well to Oyster River. "It's fun!" he says of the high school. "It's a different challenge, but I think I'm up for it."



The atmosphere of the ORHS cafeteria quietly simmers with the new changes.

#### EXCHANGE STUDENTS (Continued from page 5)

"In your application, you choose three countries that you'd like to go to. Keep in mind that there is a deadline," says Forcey-Rodriguez. "You tend to get your first choice if you submit your application early."

The ORHS junior plans on starting an AFS club at the high school. "The purpose of making an AFS club in school is to get [students] to meet people of different nationalities and learn about the pleasures of going abroad," he explains. He says that the club would host events like international games or food nights. "Some of the events will be the exchange students speaking publically about AFS and what it is like to be in a different country for a summer, semester, or yearlong exchange."

Machanoff says that being an exchange student is a good opportunity for high schoolers to meet new people from around the world and see how they live, and Allen agrees: "In the end, we just want the students to have a good cultural experience."

*If you are interested in being an exchange student or just want to learn more, visit the websites of the programs ORHS works with:*

AFS <http://www.afs.org>

ISEP <http://www.isep.org>

Cultural Homestay International <http://www.chinet.org>

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## SENATE GOT A SAY?



**Chase Klewicki**  
Op-Ed Editor

Following the passionate debate over the new policy banning the dance move "grinding" at ORHS, a procession of upset senators and disgruntled students made its way out of Mr. Cangelo's room last Tuesday.

The senate began the discussion with the intention of finding common ground with the administration, but after about 45 minutes it became apparent there would be no compromise.

It seemed obvious that Principal Todd Allen had made up his mind before coming to the senate meeting, and therefore put aside the points and opinions of the senate to be dealt with at another time or perhaps not at all. On the other hand, the Student Senate had to defend a dance move deemed "inappropriate" and "unsafe" by the administrative staff. Their apathy did not help their cause.

This situation raises the question of whether or not the Student Senate actually has a substantive voice with regard to policies and procedures affecting students. There are at least two problems here. First, we have a seemingly unbending administration. Second, we have an overly dysfunctional and apathetic senate.

Also, some of the administrators are relatively new to the school; for example, Mr. Allen is only beginning his second year as principal of ORHS. These administrators have never had to deal with a student senate before coming to Oyster River, and the precedent set seems to be skepticism towards student opinion, no matter if the student position has merit or not. With this administrative doubt in mind, on the student side we have a group of students who would like to be on the senate but have no intention of being senators. If we read between the lines a little bit, it becomes apparent of the large benefit of checking off "senator" on one's resume but also the significant workload taken on, if the responsibilities of being a senator are actually carried out.

The administration does attend senate meetings when asked, and the student body does have an official on the school board. Without any real voice, however, these two courtesies seem pointless. "Currently it does not seem we have a voice; we can voice our concerns and they are heard, but there is not much change," says senior senator Zack Jones. Three school policies were changed this summer: a modification to the attendance

*"Currently it does not seem we have a voice; we can voice our concerns and they are heard, but there is not much change." -Zack Jones*

policy, a less restricting "open campus" policy, and the "face to face with space" policy pertaining to dances. Going into the school year, the senate was just as surprised as any student to hear these new policies put into place.

This is not just.



Senate members Zack Jones, Jenny Taylor, Sam Lewis, and Aidan Conrad demonstrating dance moves at a recent school assembly.

Bypassing the student voice completely and shutting them out until the policy has been put into place defeats the purpose of having the student senate in the first place.

Regardless of the topic or policy, it is imperative that the student-elected officials should be consulted before policy is implemented. The senate supposedly represents the student body, which is almost always the biggest stakeholder in the policies affecting our school. Consequently the senate should be consulted. Social Studies teacher Brian Zotolli makes the point, "Some decisions do not need student opinion like those concerning safety or appropriate-

ness." Bypassing the senate, however, cuts out the voices of the students and denies the administration of potentially good ideas.

In addition to the administration's unwillingness to compromise, the senate consists of senators who really do not strive to embody the student voice, or try to unite the student body with new events or policies. Senate Advisor Derrick Cangelo disagrees with this point, saying, "I know these kids personally; they are hardworking, impartial, and good at articulating what they have to say."

If what Mr. Cangelo says is true, it is alarming that more is not accomplished by sixteen senators even with additional voices. The senate is divided and lacks organization, senators admit to not knowing their duties, and they often miss senate meetings. Senator Jones says "Most things done are events organized annually, and the senate doesn't need to represent the students."

Doing the same events year in and year out is a good idea if the student body enjoys them and makes them worthwhile. However, it also shows that if most things the senate organizes and accomplishes are done blindly every year, Senator Jones' point is right. The senate is no longer representing the student body and does not need to. They are merely an organizing staff for the year's events. We need to decide whether we want active representative leadership of the student voice, or a glorified planning committee.



Students discussing issues at the senate meeting





## ADMINISTRATION REVISION



**Adrian Schidlovsky**  
Op-Ed Writer

presidential election," explained Young. "Being elected president is like any other spontaneous win; it's somewhat shocking and relieving that the work you put in all paid off."

After speaking with a few seniors, it became clear that a new president was favorable. While Nanda was very organized and brave (looking back on the goofy things he would do just to get a chuckle or to persuade the class of 2013), the progress being made while he was president just wasn't enough to elect him for another year. Brennan Young has been on student senate for as long as the position was available to him, and it is he who will be leading the senior class out of high school in June of 2013.

The competition was fierce due to Young and Nanda's tight relationship in the past. They became close friends over years of middle school and high school politics.

"I absolutely do not see [my victory] as 'beating Pranav,' but rather as winning the election for class president against a tough opponent," said Young when asked about how their relationship affected the election.

After multiple interviews with members of the senior class, the real problem with the Nanda Administration became clear. "I felt like I was kept in the dark on most of the issues that occurred," said senior Seamus Clancy. "I was under the impression that we had this glorious hunk ton of cash somewhere, but I was sadly mistaken."

When seniors were asked who they voted for president and why, senior Bekah Diamond-Bier stated that she voted for Nanda. "He's been our president for three years," she said. "Instead of changing presidents, I think it would have been wiser to just approach him and make sure that issues are resolved, instead of starting over."

An anonymous senior stated that, "[Pranav] was not very good with delegating things and

Senior Pranav Nanda has been president of the class of 2013 ever since student council in sixth grade.

Until now.

Nobody dared to run against Nanda...until elections came around the end of last year, when senior Brennan Young challenged his position. "In no way was I expecting to win the class



Principal Todd Allen and senior class president Brennan Young pose with President Barack Obama.

*"I felt like I was kept in the dark on most of the issues that occurred."*

*-Seamus Clancy*

making sure that everyone had their say, but he managed us pretty well, was always on top of the information for us, and lead us well."

Senior Dayne Sawtelle said, "I was under the impression that [the senior class] had a lot of money, which clearly was not true. I think Brennan will express the interests of many different parts of the student body."

"[The senior class was] only aware of some of what was going on, but were omitted key information such as the money scandal," Clancy added. "Brennan has been doing good so far, except for the money, but if we don't get money, it's not really his fault due to the new dance policy...but he definitely has a chance too."

"Several events will occur for fundraising to pay for end-of-the-year activities, and the hope is that seniors will enjoy their last year and really get involved in what's going on at the school," said Young.

With new rules put into place over the summer, I think Young has the opportunity to raise this class from the



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**Cam Messer**  
**Op-Ed Writer**

## RUNNING WITH SCISSORS

What can one do with thirty minutes of free time during school? Grab some lunch off campus? Run home and grab a half-finished? Or perhaps do something illegal and take on the risks of being reprimanded by law enforcement. Whatever it may be, under new policy, students are permitted to leave school grounds during the school day.

In their most recent attempts to simplify and provide equal opportunities to the student body, the high school administration has amended the school's "open-campus" policy. The qualifications specify that a Junior or Senior must have: enough credits to graduate on time, have no serious disciplinary violation, behavior of that in a school setting and a release form signed on record. "Minimal standards" as Principal Allen refers to it. There is no wording in the policy about grade-point-average, where it has been in the past. Previous years, in order for students to qualify, his or her grade-point-average had to be above a 3.0. The previous policy only permitted qualifying students to leave campus during blocked scheduling. Allen states: "I wanted to do what I think generally they [students] want to do. I have not heard anyone say: gee I wish they had not done it." The administration's intentions are to institute a consistent, clear, fair rule that is easy to enforce and where everyone starts out on the same page. "With this rule, everyone has the same rules and equal opportunity to access it" Allen comments.

As we grow older, more and more responsibility is given to us. It is a weird system if one were to think about it. We are allowed to do most things until we screw up or commit an act that severs society's confidence in our capability to do so. For instance, we are allowed to drive and operate a vehicle at the age of fifteen and a half, putting everyone else who is on the road in danger.

For those who are of legal age can go to a bar and drink themselves stupid until they are cut off or thrown in jail for disturbing the public peace. But we as citizens are allowed to have access and take part in these privileges.

Is it weird? Yes. But is it a good system? Yes. I think that with freedom, we as humans are able to identify and distinguish our own boundaries and limitations as individuals. With oppression, or without freedom, we are unable to effectively do so.

As we advance through middle school and into high school, the shadows of our teachers hovering over us quickly disappear and we are soon left with the responsibility of our education. The annoying

"do not forget to turn in that late homework" or "you have to make up that test tomorrow" soon become a thing of the past. Is there a way for the school to effectively decrease the gap between real world time management and responsibility without impacting the education of its students? The school's administration has taken this question and answered it with the privilege of open-campus. With the prerequisites that are set in place, qualifying students will be able to exercise and strengthen their time-management, and feel a sense of responsibility.

"It's good, teachers are starting to trust us" comments senior Travis Hackett. I do see this gesture of freedom as one of respect, and I believe that respect is generally earned with respect. Part of me fears for the future of this policy. Will students be able to follow the rules put in place? Rules, as simple as coming and going through the front office so they can keep track of us? Allen voices some of his major worries: "One of my biggest concerns is what

students do when they leave the school, obviously if a kid goes downtown and shoplifts from Rite Aid, that's going to come back to me". But Allen's overall attitude and opinions of the Oyster River students is an accurate and respectable one. I believe that we can right the conception of the teenager. As far as keeping the new policy, it sure would be nice to have it stick around for the rest of the year, and I am sure that Hackett would miss his Mama Mac and More.

*"It's good teachers are starting to trust us." -Travis Hackett*

*"I wanted to do what I think generally [students] want to do." Mr. Allen*

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**Andrew Gass**  
Features Writer

## FRESH-MEET

The class of 2016 is here; full of excitement, but unaware of what is to come in the next four years. But what are the freshmen like? That's why I set to the halls to uncover the secrets of a freshman's mind. They seem quiet and not sure exactly where they belong yet. As apprehensive as they were with answering the questions, I was able to decipher that the freshman class has the potential... to be tolerable. While they may be awkward or timid right now, I believe that the freshmen this year seem to know their place, something that we all should be grateful for.



**Natalie Davis**

Biggest fear entering high school? *Getting lost.*

Nickname? *Nat.*

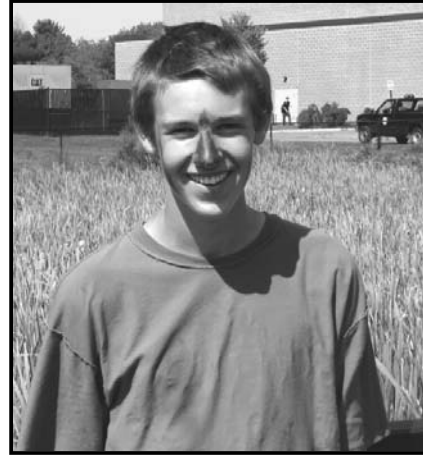
One word to describe yourself? *Smiley.*

Favorite U.S president? *George Washington.*

Fork or spoon? *Definitely spoon.*

What are you most looking forward to in high school? *The dances.*

Which freshman would survive in a zombie apocalypse? *Jason Plewinski.*



**Andy McQuade**

Biggest fear entering high school? *Getting lost*

Nickname? *Andrew, "Come on Andy."*

One word to describe yourself? *Goofy.*

Favorite superhero? *Zach Park, anybody who flies.*

Hottest Upperclassmen? *Allie Harris, Megan Comeau.*

What are you looking forward to? *More freedom.*

Pick one word to describe the freshman class: *Outgoing.*



**Christian Burt**

Biggest Fear entering high school? *The upperclassmen.*

Nickname? *Stchao.*

Favorite U.S president? *Teddy Roosevelt.*

Hottest upperclassmen? *Landon Burt.*

Which freshman would survive a zombie apocalypse? *Jake Rappolt.*

Fork or spoon? *Huh? Fork.*



**Tessa Oakes**

What was your biggest fear entering high school? *All the people.*

One word to describe yourself? *Loud.*

Favorite superhero? *Superman.*

Hottest upperclassmen? *I don't know anybody.*

What are you most looking forward to in high school?

*Meeting new people.*

Pick one word to describe the freshman class: *Diverse.*



**Emma Salvati**  
Features Writer

## OCCUPY MAIN STREET

What do Wings Your Way, La Paz Taqueria, The Licker Store, Movie Stop, and JP's Eatery all have in common? Along with many others, they are stores that have ventured away from Durham into an unknown void of nostalgia and memory.

After living in Durham for 12 years and attending school in the district since kindergarten, I have seen businesses in town come and go, while a select few have remained profitable favorites. Several shops and restaurants are a Durham standard, and the town would not be the same if they were to disappear.

Either for a family-friendly lunch, a soccer team outing, or breakfast after a long night, Young's Restaurant is the perfect place for a good meal and has been serving the community since 1916. If you're not in the mood for a sit-down meal, there are many places to walk in and grab something to go. (After a hard day at school, nomming on a hot slice of DHOP pizza with some good buddies just about hits the spot.)

We have seen a movie rental store/tanning salon, an Obama Campaign Headquarters, a Taqueria, and a family restaurant (that has had two different names) all take up business in the same spot over the last 10 years. Benjamin's and Wings Your Way both came and went too quickly, and I can recall my disappointment last year when I discovered the absence of 'The Juice Hut' after hoping for a Mango Smoothie on a hot summer day. While some businesses are dearly missed (coughcoughTheBagelry) others unfortunately go unnoticed when forced to shut down.

What makes these businesses in Durham, specifically on the UNH campus, so successful while others struggle to get by? What are some key factors in keeping a business running, and what are things to avoid?

A good location is one of the most important things to have in order to have a successful and popular business. Establishments located directly on Main Street will generally get more foot traffic in their stores than those down Jenkins Court or those accessible from the Tedeschi parking lot. For this reason an entrepreneur's first choice would be leasing out a space on Main Street. Karen Larson, owner of 'The Candy Bar,' located on 44 Main Street, feels she is in the perfect spot Down Town. "When I first wanted to open up a candy shop, I felt it would do well [on Main Street]," explains Larson. She says that college students and members of the community could have all they wanted with a candy bar next to a pizza place and a coffee shop. 'The Candy Bar' has been open since May of this year and has been running smoothly ever since. "It's been great!" exclaims Larson. "It's been very busy, and the customers have been a nice blend of the locals and college students." As Larson makes her way into the fifth month of operation, she expects there to be a spike in business around the holiday season and into Valentine's Day.

*"We will always have the businesses that cater to [the students]; however, the general population needs catering to as well."*

*"The Main Street strip is definitely busier."*

Other businesses have not been as fortunate as 'The Candy Bar.' John Knorr, owner of the gourmet soup store 'What A Crock!' on 4 Jenkins Court, planned to start a business in Durham, but instead first opened on the Pease Trade Port in Portsmouth. "My wife and I felt that a college town, such as Durham, should have the opportunity to have a good, wholesome meal, so Durham was the original plan," says Knorr. 'What A Crock!' in Durham opened its doors ap-

proximately a year and a half ago, and so far the store in Portsmouth has seen more business than the

one on the UNH campus. Knorr sees his customers as about 1/3 UNH students, 1/3 locals, and the other 1/3 as people who work downtown.

Bindy Curtis, of 'Bindy's Boutique,' wishes she could see more customers from around the district in her store. She appreciates the business she gets from the college students, but would like to see a wider variety of shoppers. "I think I don't see many locals because Durham doesn't promote businesses as well as it could, although advertisement is up to the individual store."

'Bindy's Boutique' has been operating since 2008, and focuses on providing shopper-friendly access to new and used clothing and accessories. Many accessories and jewelry are hand crafted by local artists, and she is known for featuring Halloween costumes in October. "I have lived in Durham for 18 years, and I always wondered why there wasn't a place where I could buy clothes," says Curtis. "I can remember around

15 years ago when there was a movie theater and a pizza place, but no place to actually shop." Curtis explains that

her store gets little respect from the college students, in recent incidences of vandalism and damage to the store. "I think if more people knew me, they would be a little more respectful," she says remorsefully. Curtis had been deaf her whole life until around 2006 when she had Cochlear surgery, then opened the boutique a year later.

While many business owners downtown believe that locations is one of the most important factors in having a successful business, Casey Smith, Team Leader of 'Aroma Joes,' has a different approach. "The Main Street strip is definitely busier, but the location of our store wouldn't matter, because we're a chain," says Smith. "Our customers are ones who have heard of us through word of mouth and keep coming back after trying our product." 'Aroma Joes' in Durham opened up this past June, and the first store opened in 2000. "We chose to open in Durham because it's a college town and would make a great hangout spot for students. Many college students don't go to the bars, so it's good for them, and the high schoolers as well." (Continued on page 18)



*Get your shopping done at 'Bindy's Boutique.'*



*Aroma Joe's: Good coffee for a good price.*



*Two peanuts were walking down the street. One was asSAuLTed.*

# MEET THE STAFF!

## NEWS DEPARTMENT

**ADELIA COUSER, senior**

*Editor in Chief/News Writer*

**Favorite Show:** Family Guy or Mistfits.

**Favorite Band:** The Killers.

**Favorite Subject:** English.

**Favorite Superhero:** Frozone from The Incredibles.

**What's the 1st thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Put the money in the bank to start saving for ridiculously high college tuition.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Chinese food.

**What would you do if you had one day left to live?** Marry Brad Pitt and have the future I never dreamed of.

**Dream Job:** Working at McDonald's.

**Dream Car:** A trolley with jet packs.



**COREY SCARANO, senior**

*News Editor*

**Favorite Show:** 'Friends.'

**Favorite Band:** "The Mandi Lathrops."

**Favorite Class:** Pottery.

**Favorite Superhero:** Cat Woman.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Razzles and pretzels.

**Dream Job:** Writer for a big magazine.

**Dream Car:** White Land Rover.



**IAN AVERY-LEAF, senior**

*Media Manager/News Writer*

**Favorite Show:** Trailer Park Boys.

**Favorite Band:** Arcade Fire.

**Favorite Subject:** Newspaper.

**Favorite Super Hero:** Batman.

**What's the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Spread the wealth.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Smoothies.

**What would you do if you had one day left to live?** Go skiing.

**Dream Job:** Photographer.



## FEATURES DEPARTMENT

**AARON PATRICK NOEL WOLFSON-SLEPIAN, senior**

*Features Editor*

**Favorite Color:** Tangerine.

**Favorite Show:** Parks and Recreation.

**Favorite Band:** Sleigh Bells.

**Favorite Class:** Sociology.

**Favorite Superhero:**

Dr. Manhattan.

**What's the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Buy a new car.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Chinese; chicken and broccoli.

**What would you do if you had**

**one day left to live?** Buy a plane ticket to Hawaii.

**Dream Job:** Civil Engineer .

**Dream Car:** Pagandi Zonda Roadster F.



**EMMA SALVATI, senior**

*Layout Editor/Features Writer*

**Favorite Show:** Family Guy.

**Favorite Band:** Tool.

**Favorite Super Hero:** Teen Titans, go Teen Titans...

**What's the 1st thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Wish for 3 more wishes.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Lay's Garden Tomato and Basil Chips.

**What would you do if you had one day left to live?**

Go to space.

**Dream Job:** Dolphin trainer.

**Dream Car:** Melissa Steven's Van



**ANDREW GASS, senior**

*Features Writer*

**Favorite Color:** Caribbean Green.

**Favorite Show:** How I Met Your Mother .

**Favorite Band:** Ca\$h Out.

**Favorite Subject:** Free Period.

**Favorite Superhero:**

Spiderman.

**What's the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Move to a foreign country.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Burritos.

**What would you do if you**

**had one day left to live?** Play soccer.

**Dream Job:** Anything that makes bank .

**Dream Car:** Aston Martin One-77.



## SPORTS DEPARTMENT

**ZACH PARK, senior**

*Sports Editor*

**Favorite Show:** Sports Center.



**Favorite Band:** 2

Chaaaaainzzzzz.

**Favorite Subject:** Soccer.

**Favorite Superhero:**

Aidan Conrad.

**What's the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?** FSU.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Chipotle.

**What would you do if you had one day left to live?**

Watch sports.

**Dream Job:** M.O.R. Sports Editor.

**ELIZA MAE BROWN ahouaghg, senior**

*Sports Writer*

**Favorite Show:** New Girl, Dance Moms, and Criminal Minds.



**Favorite Subject:** Advanced Gym.

**Favorite Superhero:** Batman.

**What's the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Buy a cat and pay for college.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Brown Sugar Cinnamon Bread.

**Dream Job:** Veterinarian.

**Dream Car:** My 2008 Honda Civic.

**NICK LAZAR, junior**

*Sports Writer*

**Favorite Show:** New Girl



**Favorite Subject:** Social Studies.

**Favorite Superhero:** Brom-Dog.

**What's the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Buy another lottery ticket.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Pancakes.

**What would you do if you had one day left to live?** Something.

**Dream Job:** A job where I don't work

and make a lot of money.

**Dream Car:** Jason Alphonse's van.

**CHINA WONG, junior**

*Sports Writer*

**Favorite Show:** Modern Family.

**Favorite Band:** At the moment, Maroon 5.

**Favorite Class:** English, I love to write.

**Favorite Superhero:** Spiderman.



**What's the 1st thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Put aside money for college, then buy by parents anything they want.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Chicken and pasta; you can do so many things with both of those foods.

**What would you do if you had one day left to live?** Spend it with the

people I love; try to meet all my favorite athletes and actors; just enjoy the day and do whatever I want and have fun.

**Dream car:** I've wanted a Prius for a while.

## OPINION-EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

**CHASE KLEWICKI, senior**

*Op-Ed Editor*

**Favorite Show:** Wilfred

**Favorite Band:** Vanilla Ice.

**Favorite class:** Gym.

**Favorite Superhero:**

Aidan Conrad.

**What's the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Buy fruit snacks.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Fruit snacks.

**What would you do if you only had one day left to live?** Eat fruit snacks.

**What is your dream job?**

Astronaut.

**What is your dream car?** My car.



**ADRIAN SCHIDLOVSKY, senior**

*Business Manager/Op-Ed Writer*

**Favorite Show:** Breaking Bad.

**Favorite Subject:**

Sociology.

**Favorite Superhero:**

Superman.

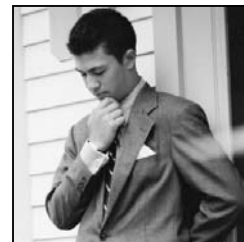
**What's the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Turn it into gold.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Potatoes, boil 'em, mash 'em, stick 'em in a stew.

**What would you do if you had one day left to live?** YOLO.

**Dream Job:** Foreign exchange.

**Dream Car:** Audi R8



**CAM MESSER, senior**

*Circulation Manager/Op-Ed Writer*

**Favorite Show:** How I Met Your Mother.

**Favorite Band:**

Led Zeppelin, he's the best.

**Favorite Class:** Pottery.

**Favorite Superhero:** Firefighters.

**What's the first thing you would do if you won the lottery?** Buy a

time machine and a

gray sports almanac.

**If you had to eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** BLTs.

**What would you do if you had one day left to live?** Go skydiving

or scuba diving.

**Dream Job:** SPACE RANGER.





**Andrew Gass**  
Features Writer

## FALL FUN

Remember when we were younger, and going outside during fall time to maybe jump into a pile of leaves or sip on some apple cider was awesome? Well I decided to take a walk down memory lane over the weekend and visit some of the local fall activities that are happening. I ventured through a corn maze at Coppal Farm in Lee and I also went apple picking at DeMerrit Hill Farm, bringing back wonderful memories of when I was younger.

Navigating through the corn maze with my friends trying to find our way out made me feel just like a little kid again, and let's be honest, who doesn't want to feel like a little kid? I had my doubts about the maze, but I was pleasantly surprised at how much fun I ended up having.

This is the 8th year that Coppal Farm has had a corn maze. But it all started 25 years ago when Carol and John Hutton had a farm in Stratham. Their friends would come over with their children and they would play hide and seek in the rows of corn. It was also during this time that more farmers were starting to cut designs into their crops to allow for more income, so the Hutton's got the idea to move to a place where they could have enough room to create a maze. As Carol Hutton states, "We like the public... we want to educate people, and what better way than to have a corn maze."



**Brennan Young, Megan Comeau and Molly McQuade**  
read a clue.

When you go through the maze, there are mailboxes at different points with questions that you must answer to help you choose the right direction. Going into this, I thought the questions would be easy. Unfortunately I was wrong; some of the questions actually make you think and there were a few times where we went around in circles. "It was rewarding seeing a mailbox every time you rounded a bend" said Senior Megan Comeau.

Each year Coppal Farm creates the maze based off a different animal. This year the maze was shaped like a bunny, last year it was a turtle. The Huttons choose the animal they want to represent by animals that are in our backyards, but also on their farm. "Things like turtles, skunks, coyotes, these are all good things," said Hutton. They do reptiles, mammals, insects and they've even done one of an owl before.

Senior Brennan Young says, "Going through a maze shaped as a bunny is something that I've always wanted to do, I can check it off the bucket list now." As childish as this may seem, running through a bunny trying to find the proper way out was probably one of the highlights of my school year so far.



To spice things up a little bit, we split into two teams and decided to race through the maze trying to see who



*The sign leading into the entrance of the maze*

DeMerrit Hill Farm is always a classic place to visit; countless amounts of kids have been there. Whether it was with your parents or on a field trip, visiting DeMerrit Hill Farm is something that had to have happened at least once.

Even as a senior in high school, I still found it enjoyable. Senior Molly McQuade also agrees: "I think it's just fun to go out and apple pick - it reminds me of being young!"

*"Going through a maze shaped as a bunny is something I've always wanted to do."*  
- Brennan Young

DeMerrit Hill Farm has been around for over 70 years and there are over 120 acres of land on the entire farm. There are always different activities happening around the farm, which provides you with tons of options. You can go on a hayride and be driven around the farm, and then dropped off at the orchards to proceed with your picking. If you feel like getting some exercise you can just go ahead and walk on into the orchard.



*Mrs. Drake bites into a delicious apple.*

Picking your own apples (PYO) is what the majority of people who visit decide to do because it allows you to choose which apples you want. Walking through the rows of apples in the warm weather brought back such great memories, I began to have flash backs of being in 1st grade and younger. Picking apples was always an enjoyable thing to do, and I had forgotten what it was like to enjoy the outdoors and just pick apples.

There was even a sighting of Mrs. Drake, proving that even teachers can enjoy apple picking.

I'm ashamed that it took me so long to finally go apple picking again. I had always brushed off the idea of going out to pick apples; it had seemed too boring to me. But as I discovered, going to pick apples is something that can be just as entertaining as a corn maze; you just have to find ways to make it fun.

After my weekend of fall activities ended, I took time to do a little bit of reflecting. I was able to come up with one major closing point: never grow up. Going out to do childish things like running through a corn maze or going out with friends to pick apples will always be entertaining. It's just a matter of taking the time to find the effort to go out and do it. It's fall time, enjoy the outdoors, it's what we're supposed to do.



**Aaron Slepian**  
Features Editor

## GO WEST YOUNG MAN... ABOUT 1 MILE

Attending college is probably the first major change that most people will experience. It's the students' first time living on their own. They are in charge of feeding themselves (with the help of a dining hall). The classes in college are intense and the professors are demanding. The biggest change for these young adults is most likely living far away from home, but for a rising number of Oyster River graduates living far away from home isn't

much of an issue. Year after year more and more ORHS students decide to attend UNH. According to The New Hampshire (UNH's campus newspaper), in 2009 37 students from our high school started attending UNH; the year prior only 19 did.

Jack Garnhart, who graduated from ORHS in 2011 states, "I chose UNH because it was the cheapest and most convenient option." The "cheapness" of UNH seems to be the biggest draw for in state students. When asked why she chose UNH, Chloe Sailor, a UNH freshman from Oyster River gave a similar reason to Garnhart's, "I only applied to UNH as a backup school, and I got into all my top choices, mostly places in Boston, and visited them all again and what it came down to was the price of UNH compared to the other schools."

UNH's \$25,504 price tag is probably the most appealing feature for most ORHS alumni, but does going to college in your hometown allow you to have the complete college experience? Although UNH is rising in popularity, ORHS graduates still like to venture away from home. In fact, Class of 2011's Hallie Miller says part of the reason she initially chose University of Alabama because "I wanted to be 100% out of my comfort zone." Brady Brickner-Wood chose West Virginia University because he wanted to get away from New Hampshire, also adding, "I also really wanted to step out of my comfort zone and push myself to go and live somewhere by myself, in a completely different environment."

*"The weirdest part would have to be seeing my friends parents randomly around, sometimes when you're hammered or even they are."*

*-Jack Garnhart*

After their first year Brickner-Wood and Miller both decided to transfer to UNH, for the same reason that most people go there in the first place: financial benefits. While this seems to be the leading reason to attend UNH a lot of people are opposed to it because of its proximity to home, and because they'd rather gain an experience away from where they grew up. A lot of UNH students who graduated ORHS don't find issue with its location. Miller says, "It honestly feels so different than being at home, I forget I even have a house in the same region." And Garnhart concurs stating that, "This town is so completely different when you go to college in it; you're constantly in a crazy atmosphere you had no idea existed prior."

Students even find that living close to home has its benefits, Garnhart enjoys having family near if he needs help and Brickner-Wood and Sailor both find it useful having access to their cars, which most out of state students do not have. Sailor, Garnhart, Brickner-Wood and Miller unanimously believe

that one of the strangest things about going to college in your home town is seeing people that you know around campus, whether it be parents or younger kids. "The weirdest part would have to be seeing my friends parents randomly around, sometimes when you're hammered or even they are." Garnhart comments on the subject.

The subject has been heavily debated for a long time, whether in state or out of state college is better, and it seems as though there isn't much comparing the two, Brickner-Wood says, "It has its perks being close to

home, but I wouldn't say one situation is better than the other. I grew up so much last year being far away, and I wouldn't trade that situation for the world. But being close to home is nice too because of all the resources at my disposal." Miller states "It is hard to say because [out of state and in state] are much too diverse of feelings. I like both of them; they both have their ups and downs. I am indifferent to both because I enjoy being near home and away from home."

College isn't your only chance to escape your home town; there are endless possibilities after that. Brickner-Wood plans on going out west to California or Oregon after college, while Sailor wants to go to Boston for Grad School and Miller says she wants to explore the mid-west and the Carolinas. Garnhart (being a little more vague) says, "I'm planning on getting out of here when I graduate for sure, but I'll be back in the 603 someday"



*Thompson Hall, which is possibly the most iconic building at UNH.*



*Congreve Hall, a popular dormitory building located on the corner of Edgewood Road and Main Street.*



# PAPP-DADDY FOR PRESIDENT



**Emma Salvati**  
Features Writer

Most of us have had the fortune of meeting Social Studies teacher Matt Pappas at some point in our high school career. Those who know him can agree that he is smart, relatable, and easy to talk to. He is always willing to share stories with his students, though they may not always be about history or about anything you have been talking about. Pappas has the ability to allocate not just history lessons, but life lessons: ones that can stick with a student throughout their academic career, and even long after that.

After graduating from Concord High School in 1988, Pappas received a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and minored in geography at the University of New Hampshire. He now lives in Gonic, New Hampshire.

Whether in World Cultures, Citizenship Education, U.S.

*"One thing will never change about him is that he loves talking and interacting with students."*

History or Russian Studies, Pappas knows his stuff. Even though he has taught these subjects in the past, this year he has decided to teach only Cit. Ed. and World Cultures. "U.S. History is my favorite class to teach," says Pappas. "I am going to miss it this year."

A certain history teacher in 10th grade had a great influence on his decision to become an educator. There was also one other teacher in his school that inspired him.

In 1985, Pappas' high school gained worldwide fame when social studies teacher Christa McAuliffe was chosen to participate in the 'NASA Teacher in Space' program; she would go down in history as the first teacher in space. Much publicity followed after the space shuttle McAuliffe was on, The Challenger, exploded and killed all seven crewmembers.

Another traumatic event happened while Pappas was in high school when a student came to school armed with a gun in pursuit to shoot another student that had been bullying him. The gunman was eventually shot and killed by a police officer.



*Mr. Pappas in his natural environment.*

After high school, Pappas attended UNH and graduated in 1993. "It was close to home, and a great educational institution," he says. Attending

UNH is one of the main reasons he now teaches at Oyster River. "Durham is a beautiful town, with a supportive community and a good reputation. The town values education, and I also wanted to teach at a smaller school."

Pappas teaches mostly freshmen in World Cultures and sophomores in Cit. Ed. "Pappi is the man!" declares sophomore Josh Fenerty. "He has a lot of information to share."



*Matt Pappas teaches Citizenship Education and World Cultures.*

"He is a very relaxed teacher who has a good sense of humor and, in my opinion, is smart," says sophomore Jason Camp, who is currently in Pappas' Cit. Ed. class.

"Mr. Pappas as a person is one of, if not, the nicest people I have ever met. Nobody, since my arrival at Oyster River, has supported me more and collaborated with me more than Mr. Pappas. And that is saying a lot, as our faculty is really second to none," says fellow history teacher Derek Cangello. "He is really the 'go to' guy for all things within our school, district, county and state regarding important issues regarding education as well as everything else.

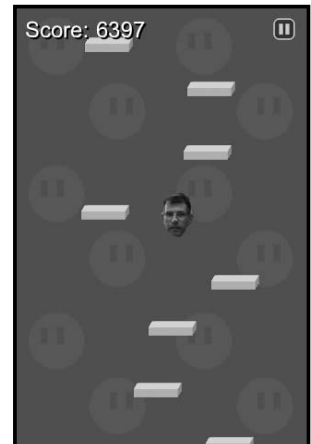
And the way students look up to him is amazing. He is truly just a great human being."

*"He is a very relaxed teacher who has a good sense of humor."*

Pappas shares that Theodore Roosevelt is one of his favorite history subjects to cover. "He was a man ahead of his time, and didn't care what other people thought of him." If he could go back in time, he has several different destinations in mind: The writing of the Constitution, watching the first space launch, seeing man first walk on the moon, and watching the Berlin Wall come down in 1989.

"He is extremely easy to work with because he is open to pretty much anything," says senior Brennan Young. "One thing will never change about him, is that he loves talking and interacting with students."

Mutual respect between students and teachers makes the learning process easier and more fun. Connecting with students is an extremely important quality to have in a teacher, and by observing him teach you can tell it is something that comes easy to Mr. Pappas.



*PapiJump*

*Picture Courtesy of Google Images*

# HOROSCOPES



**Adelia Couser**  
Editor in Chief

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO LIBRAS, SCORPIOS, AND SAGITTARI!

### Aries (March 21-April 19)

*MOR staff matches: None.*

The new school year has begun, and it has brought a variety of marvelous opportunities. Since you are the leading sign of the zodiac, you can take your pick from this wonderful cornucopia. Soaring grades. Squads of admirers. A triple dose of Mr. Q's health classes. Ahhh, the possibilities. Choose wisely.

### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

*MOR staff matches: Zach Park (4/23), Adelia Couser (5/11).*

Summer went by fast, and it's always hard for you to adjust to a new environment...so take it easy this year! Integrate yourself slowly by setting aside little bits of "me time," where you choose an activity that lets you embrace your inner beautiful, confident, and independent spirit who don't need no summer. You won't even want those lake houses once you've found yourself again.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

*MOR staff matches: Cam Messer (6/16), Corey Scarano (6/19).*

In the very near future, your parents will excitedly inform you that they've signed you up for an all-autumn-long Miss Manners camp! You'll learn how to correctly hold silverware, embroider napkins, and walk properly in heels. Surprise! (If you're a boy, tough luck...at least it'll build character.)

### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

*MOR staff matches: China Wong (7/12).*

The weather is getting colder, and it's time for you to stop putting up with this "being chilly" nonsense. At the first opportunity, go to school wrapped in as many blankets as you can possibly fit around yourself; use supersized rubber bands and parental assistance if needed. You can then happily roll about the hallways in complete warmth and comfort; just try not to squish any freshmen.

### Leo (July 23-August 22)

*MOR staff matches: Eliza Brown (8/4).*

You've always had trouble getting out of bed in the mornings, and it seems like this school year is no exception. This won't be a problem anymore, because your parents (tired of waking you up in the morning) have decided to splurge on a very special alarm clock that has new and exciting ways of making people wake up. Curious about what'll happen? You'll just have to wait and see...

### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

*MOR staff matches: None.*

You've been stressing about your homework load recently, but don't worry. To help you relax, your friends will throw you a Cuban-nationalism-themed party, complete with Latin American dancers and traditional costumes — your favorite! Enjoy!

### Libra (September 23-October 22)

*MOR staff matches: Ian Avery-Leaf (9/26), Mr. Kelly (9/27), Emma Salvati (10/11), Adrian Schidlovsky (10/12).*

After pulling an all-nighter to finish a grueling history project, you will lean back in your chair to relax and promptly fall back in time! The place you go will be determined by the topic of your project; colonial times, Mexico, or maybe the Native American era for a certain American Studies class. Just be sure not to touch anything, or you could change the world as we know it...

### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

*MOR staff matches: Chase Klewicki (9/18).*

One night, as you're staring dreamily outside your window, you shall see none other than your hero Jay-Z standing on the street in front of your house with a bouquet of flowers in hand! He will begin serenading you with his hit "Empire State of Mind" as he walks onto your lawn. Unfortunately, your parents just installed a night-activated security system, and Jay-Z will find himself being drenched with water and tackled by pitbulls (or Pitbulls? Get it? Like the singer? okay). Your flowers will be crushed. Sorry.

### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

*MOR staff matches: None.*

When you walk into school next week, you will discover that the entire building has been turned into a jungle! With a battle cry of "HEEEEEEOOOOWOOAH," Tarzan will sweep up from behind you and take you to the future you never believed possible.

### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

*MOR staff matches: None.*

Let's face it...you're already starting to forget to bring your lunch this year, and your school account will be running low on money soon. The stars indicate that you should raise money by becoming a hallway performer — it's like a street performer, but better! Amaze your classmates and frighten your friends by showing off your best teacher impersonations, gymnastic endeavors, and crowd surfing skills; money and fame are guaranteed to come rolling in.

### Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

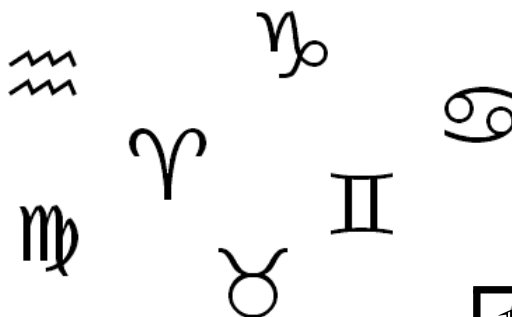
*MOR staff matches: Aaron Slepian (2/4).*

While you're walking down the hallway one morning, you will high five one too many of your several friends and suddenly fall to the floor. Everything will spin. You'll experience a strange feeling in your heart. When you get up again, you'll catch sight of your reflection in a nearby window. You are the new Mr. Morin. The old Morin is no more. He is you.

### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

*MOR staff matches: Nick Lazar (2/24), Andrew Gass (3/2).*

Little did you know that you had grievous enemies! In a couple of weeks, shortly before midnight, you will be awakened by a crashing sound in your kitchen. You'll walk through your darkened house, shaking slightly with fear, only to find a battle-axe shoved mercilessly into a watermelon with a note pinned to it saying, "I'LL BE BACK." Try to stay safe until the next MOR issue, where more may be revealed...



## GOLF MID-SEASON REVIEW



**Eliza Mae Brown**  
Sports Writer

"The last two years we've missed the team cut for the state championship by one shot...our real goal for this year is to make it to that tournament," says Senior and Co-captain John Parsons of the Oyster River varsity golf team.

Coach Eric Foster believes the team should be focusing on improving all around, not just with their score but also in knowledge.

This can be in etiquette, the rules, or just improvement in one aspect of their game. This is Coach Foster's goal for everyone, however, "As for the team goal, each player and myself have set the goal of making the state tournament," explains Coach Foster.

With the team at 10-9 this season Parsons sees the potential. After losing Brennan Young "the team was in a hole," according to Parsons and more players needed to step up and fill some of the spots left behind. Players like Ashley Tewksbury "have been a great addition to the varsity team," says Parsons. Ashley Tewksbury, the only girl on the team, has been a helpful addition to the team and you would never guess she's only a sophomore. "At the end of the day when we have to turn in our scorecards it doesn't matter how old you are, all that matters is that we all know how to play the game," says Tewksbury. Tewksbury shot a 44 at Nippo Lake playing against Con Val and Coe-Brown which helped the team to success and impressed many.



*Golf team posing before big match. Courtesy: John Parsons*

The golf team hopes to improve mentally over the season and stay below a 210 at every match. Below a 210 is a hard number to strive for, but the team almost reached that goal against Con Val and Coe-Brown when they shot a 215. However, Parsons believes they can do better and hopes the team can see this too.

Senior and Co-captain Ian Elmslie believes the team has a good chance to make the tournament and thinks the team plays very well so far. Already through the first four matches Parsons sees improvement on the course and in everyone's maturity, "I'm really excited for what the rest of the season holds." Coach Foster feels the same in believing they can "rise to the challenge...but in golf, time will only tell."

### Occupy Main Street (continued from page 11)

Most businesses in Durham work with the Durham Business Association (DBA) to help promote local business



*What a CROCK! So many yummy soups.*

and work with both students and resident. Johanna Knight has been chair of the DBA for 7 years, and been involved in the organization for 15 years. Knight explains that what makes a business successful is their ability to tailor to both the needs of the students and to the community. "The main business in town are students," says Knight. "We will always have the businesses that cater to them; however the general population also needs catering to as well. It is a fine balance of the two that insures a successful business

here in Durham. We have many business owners that have and do achieve that fine balance, and have been in business for many years here." Knight continues to say that the most successful businesses in town are the pizza and coffee shops.

Starting a business is a risky decision,

especially in Durham. The most important features of a good business is selling a good product along with having a good location. While some have one without the other, most successful ones have both. The most prominent reasons a shop chooses to open in Durham is the fact that it is a college town, and a significant amount of customers are the students. Business owners know their crowd, and they know their crowd likes pizza and coffee. Obviously, not every store can sell pizza and coffee, so there is much room for different things, such as candy or falafels. Over the years, the Durham standard has changed from typical college shops, to a variety of different places to choose from, no matter what you're looking for.



"To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift."  
(~Steve Prefontaine~)

Have a great year Oyster River Students!  
Do your best at everything you do!

**The Candy Bar**  
Durham's only candy and gourmet chocolate shop!  
Located at 44 Main Street.



**Zach Park**  
Sports Editor

## THE RIVER OF YOUTH

Underclassmen are usually the most unknown and ridiculed kids at Oyster River High School. A big way many kids can get their name out is playing sports. There are a talented few who are fortunate enough to play at the varsity level. Look for these four prodigies to break out this year and lead OR fall sports for years to come.

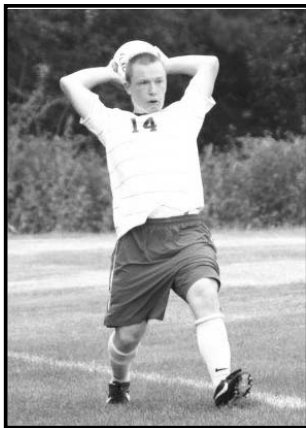
### Girls Cross Country: Maegan Doody



*Doody runs a corner at the Hollis Invitational. (Courtesy of Drew Horton)*

Doody is a freshmen and is the top runner for the OR girls cross country team. Even though she is just a freshmen, Doody says she feels very close to her the teammates and believes it's a great experience being running with older girls. She finished 16th at the Bobcat Invitational with a personal best of 21:22. Doody tends to go a little too fast at the beginning of races due to her sprinting background. She looks to pace herself a little more to conserve her energy for the whole race. Doody also wants to be more confident and not nervous before races. She runs year-round with winter and spring track as well as running for USA Track and Field during the summer. Senior Becca Hoff says, "You can tell that she tries her best during every single practice. It's very impressive watching her run." With continued hard work and experience, Doody should lead OR for seasons to come.

### Boy Soccer: Liam O'Rourke



*O'Rourke steps up to take a throw-in. (Courtesy of the O'Rourke Family)*

O'Rourke is a sophomore currently in his first season with the boy's varsity team. He's the third of the O'Rourke brothers and could easily be the best one. He plays outside back and center back and is a very solid piece of the OR defense. O'Rourke is also capable of playing in the center midfield and outside wing. Senior captain Zack Jones adds, "Liam is a versatile player; he can play almost every position on the field." Jones also adds that O'Rourke is a good leader despite only being a sophomore. O'Rourke moves forward very well out of the back which is a key attribute to have in with the style OR uses this year. He loves what the Bobcats have been able to do so far this season but also realizes he has two more years. He looks to model the next two teams around the hard work and passion the current team possesses. O'Rourke wants to get stronger and be even more aggressive to add another dimension to his game. O'Rourke plays year-round with Seacoast United and should improve a lot over the next three years. He will be a known player around the state in the future.



*Barth paces OR at the Hollis Invitational (Courtesy of Drew Horton)*

### Boys Cross Country: Cam Barth

Barth is a sophomore currently in his second season with the varsity cross country team. Despite the fact that he is only a sophomore, Barth is the top runner for OR and one of the top runners in the state. Barth posted a personal best 16:28 at the Bobcat Invitational and finished the race in 1st place. Barth dominated the race as no runner came within 17 seconds of him. Although he is running at a very high level, Barth believes there is still room for improvement. He looks to bring his 16:28 time down under 16:20 and ultimately under 16:00. This milestone will be very difficult but Barth is determined to take on the challenge. Senior leader Christian Davis states that Barth is "the present and future of NHIAA Cross Country". Look for Barth to be a force in the state for the next three years.



*Tauriello celebrates with her team after a big goal.*

### Girls Soccer: Grace Tauriello

Tauriello is a skilled sophomore currently in her second season with the girl's varsity team. She has a good first touch and does well moving down the sidelines on either side. Tauriello plays outside midfield for the Bobcats and is a big part of why OR is one of the top teams in the state. Her main goal for the current team is to win the state championship. The Bobcats have a very strong team in place with a lot of experience and are currently in second place. Tauriello has learned from the team from her experienced teammates and her coach, Lynda Nelson. She believes she still has lot to improve on including being more aggressive, improving her endurance and playing the ball quicker. Tauriello plays soccer year-round for Seacoast United and Olympic Development Program so these aspects of her game can constantly be worked on. She prefers school soccer due to her teammates and her coach. If Tauriello can fix her flaws and continue to learn from Coach Nelson, she can be a big reason as to why the Bobcats will make a big playoff run. Looking past this year, Tauriello with need to fill the on-field duties and leadership from the graduating seniors to continue to recent success of OR girl's soccer.



**Eliza Mae Brown**  
Sports Writer  
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## SMELLS LIKE TEAM SPIRIT

Tall tees, onesies, fake mustaches, beach day, truckers and tiny shirts: those are only some of the many spirits from different teams. Whether it's dressing like a 'nerd' or letting someone wear

their jersey, Oyster River teams do it together.

Team spirit is some sort of outfit or theme to dress as the day of a game. The entire team will dress to the theme so others will know that their team and they have a game that day.

Players and coaches both think team spirit is important but differ on some of their opinions. "I think we use it as a reminder to the school of how much we want them at the games," says boys' varsity hockey Coach Griff Richard. Most players seem to agree with this, however, they think it's so much more than that. "It makes us come together as a team," says senior and player in the varsity lacrosse team Julien Pelletier. Senior Megan Comeau, a player on the varsity soccer and basketball team, believes it is also a way to bond as a team while bringing them together.

Team spirit is an ongoing tradition, the teams getting more creative every year. "It's almost turned into a competition of who has the best spirits," says senior and player for the varsity lacrosse team and hockey Rye Morrill.

Players say team spirit is a way to come together and bond, but why do they really do it? "It's fun. Even just thinking of ideas is fun," says Comeau. Senior Becca Murphy and player for the varsity soccer team agrees with this but adds on, "it's just a team thing." Others say they do it because people think it's funny, some say they do it just because it's always



*The Boys varsity soccer team dressing as 'gangsters' in preparation for their game that day.*

Different teams like different things: the boys' hockey team dresses up before their games whereas the boys' lacrosse team tries to do everything else. This includes wearing small shirts or dressing up as truckers. The concept of team spirit keeps changing but coach Richard believes one thing will always remain the same, "It will always be something that makes the team have a good time and puts fans in the stands."

Teams have shied away from the original dressing up the day of the game and opted for more interesting looks. Past years, some of the most memorable have been the more crazy spirits. Some of these included wearing robes and carrying around a glass of "wine" done by the boys' soccer team. Another well-known spirit is wearing onesies, which the girls' soccer team does every year.

Athletic Director Corey Parker is in full support of team spirit as long as it follows the rules. According to the school handbook there are no written rules for team spirit but players generally know. Parker says, "If it's within the dress code and reason and not a distraction from school, then it's ok with me," which still leaves plenty of room for teams to get creative.

Sometimes teams take it too far and Parker has to step in. One Team "Tip toed the line of inappropriate," according to Parker and now has to be approved before they can wear their spirit. However, this isn't the case for everyone; Parker says, "Until a team raises concern they're given the benefit of doubt."

With so many spirits already done it's hard to imagine teams thinking of more. However, players get more creative every season. As long as they stay within Parker's rules then spirit isn't expected to go away anytime soon.

*"Until a team raises concern, they're given the benefit of doubt." -Corey Parker*



*Last years Girls Varsity Soccer team wearing onesies before one of the last games of the season.*



**Nick Lazar**  
*Sports Writer*

## SPORTS MID-SEASON REVIEW

### Field Hockey:

The Oyster River girls' field hockey team is trying to achieve their ultimate goal, winning the Division II State Championship. This year they lost four seniors from their squad but are looking great so far by posting a 3-3-2 record with wins coming against Milford, and most recently Portsmouth. They are currently tied for second place with Plymouth and Saint Thomas, who come up on the schedule twice this year. The field hockey team is "confident" and "prepared for the rest of the season" said current leading goal scorer Sandra Strogen. "We've done really well so far as a team and look to continue that throughout the season."



*The field Hockey team huddles up before the big game in Portsmouth.*

When talking about if this team had a potential to win the championship this year, Junior Alyssa Doucett said "We definitely have a shot at winning it, this is one of the best teams we've had in a while." Junior Amanda Souvannaseng added "I think we will have a great season, hopefully making it to the championship this year and taking it. I know as a team we are hungry for it, we just have to come out and earn it on the field."

Their goal scoring has been very constant so far throughout the year by totaling seven goals in four games. The goalkeeping has also been very good with senior Alison Sonia only letting up two goals in four games. The senior leadership on this team is also another reason why this team is successful and the strong chemistry that players have for one another. "We have really great communication as a team which comes with having a good bond with each other as well." Added Strogen.

Rounding up the rest of the starters are; senior left forward Kiersten Anderson, junior right forward Jess MarkAnthony, senior center forward Emma Salvati, senior left middle back Ariana Dawson, junior right middle back Sandra Strogen, senior center middle Kaeli McPhee, junior sweeper Hannah Fritter, senior halfback Melissa Stevens, senior halfback Lynn Burke, senior halfback Jen Ransom.

All in all this team is molding into one of the better Field hockey teams that we have had at Oyster River for quite some time now. Their next biggest game will be against rival Saint Thomas at home on the day of homecoming. The feud between both teams has already started by Souvannaseng saying "They already claim to be the champions of the division, so it would mean a lot to take that away from." Friday September 14th is shaping up to be quite a game.

### Cross Country:

The Oyster River cross country team is coming into this season with great hope of capturing a state title. The men's team is coming into this year with a winning attitude and trying to win their third consecutive championships. The team has lost their best runner from last year in Jack Collopy who helped lead the state title charge from a couple of years ago. They also lost two senior leaders in Ryan Brady and Chris Olivier.

They have strong runners returning like senior captain Damian Woodward and sophomore running mate Cam Burke. Their first meet of the season went perfectly with the boys sweeping the competition by all team members scoring in the top five.

The girls cross country team comes into this season with five seniors; Becca Hoff, Addison Jones, Megan Menelle, Jamie Miller and Serena Pape. The girls' team is looking to improve

Upon on every meet that they run; "Every race will involve some sort of forward progress towards improving and getting better" says new coming sophomore Lizzie Silvio. "The strength of our team is strong and with positive team atmosphere and we are trying to become a greater team each day." She adds.

Boy's senior cross country member David Chen agrees, [regarding the boy's team] by saying "We can improve each time with hard work and effort, and by doing that goal of winning the state title." Chen states. The boys will have a tough opponent this year with Souhegan standing in their way, Woodward says "If we can stay focused and keep working hard, then we can beat Souhegan and win the title." Both teams are striving to improve each and every week and hope to test that out at the Bobcat Cross Country invitational.

*"If we can stay focused and keep working hard, then we can beat Souhegan and win the title." -Damian Woodward*



*Boys Cross Country poses after a big win from their meet.*



**China Wong**  
Sports Writer

## OYSTER RIVER GIRLS VOLLEYBALL SEASON PREVIEW

**Who:** OR Varsity Girls Volleyball

**What:** Season Preview / Review

**When:** First Game September 5, Last Game\* October 17  
\*regular season

**Where:** For a full schedule go to nhiaa.org. All home games are scheduled to start at 5:30 pm in the High School Gymnasium (this all depends on the JV game, which last about an hour)

**Why:** The Bobcats hope to bounce back from a loss to Gilford in the semi-finals of last year's playoffs

**Team Captains:** (Sr.) Shauna Bulger- Libero, (Sr.) Katie Sylvia- Outside Hitter

Manager-(Sr.) Brenna D'Amours

**Rounding out the rest of the team:** (Sr.) Katie Levine- Setter/ Right Side Hitter, (Sr.) Darby Finch-Defensive Specialist, (Sr.) Ali Stewart-Middle Hitter, (Jr.) Brenna Walczak-Middle Hitter, (Jr.) Selia Libby-Outside Hitter, (Jr.) China Wong- Right Side Hitter/ Setter, (Jr.) Aisha Weston-Middle Hitter, (So.) Sadie Moore-Setter

The Bobcats have lost two key seniors, Kyla McCabe-Corrow,-Setter, and Middle Hitter (6'0 ft) Katie Nadeau. This season is all about what the current team can produce. The defense side of the team is looking good with seniors Shauna Bulger (Libero) and Darby Finch (Defensive Specialist). Although big players have been lost, Captain Shauna Bulger feels confident with the team this season. "I think the team has a lot of potential this year. I love this team and I am so proud and happy to be a part of it," Bulger said. Co-Captain Katie Sylvia also added that, "as a captain, I want to lead this team to our fullest potential. [To quote our coach, 'If we play our game, good things will happen']. Those good things in the long run can potentially be winning the State Championship. We are great players when we play our best, and we need to believe in ourselves and have complete confidence and trust within the team."

*"As soon as we start playing and looking like a team, the six players on the court are going to be unstoppable."*

*-Katie Sylvia*

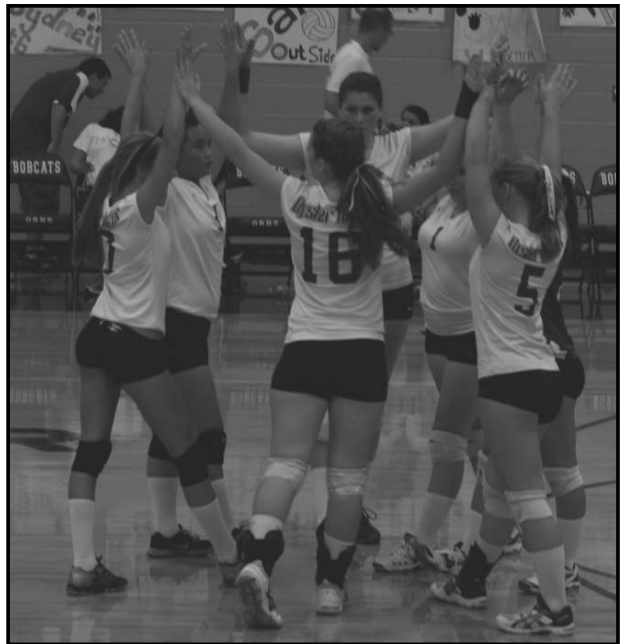
Height is not in the Bobcats' favor with Brenna Walczak as the only player taller than 5'8. "We are a very diverse team this year. We are not very tall but we have a 'high volleyball IQ' that will play dividends once we get our physical and mental game up to speed," said Coach Dan Brodeur. Walczak can get hands on balls and will serve as a key member of the hitting staff as well. Middles Ali Stewart and Aisha Weston add another great offensive threat to the team.

Setting is in the hands of Katie Levine this season. She is adjusting really well to her new position (previous years she was a hitter). "Changing my position was something that I decided on at the end of last season. I knew it wouldn't be easy, but as a senior it was something I wanted to do. I had to make a lot of adjustments like going to position-specific camps. It wasn't easy but so far it's paid off.

The outside hitters are looking very strong this year with returning players Katie Sylvia and Selia Libby.

Both can hit with power and they will be crucial in this year's offense. The right side (hitter) is a new territory for China Wong as she has primarily been a setter in her previous years. She has potential to be a great secret weapon as the season progresses. Rounding out the roster is swing player (plays both JV and Varsity) Sadie Moore who is a setter.

This year's team is primarily upperclassman (Sadie is the only underclassman). With that comes experience; every one of the Varsity members has been a part of Oyster River Volleyball since their freshman year. Everyone knows how to play the game really well and there is a lot of talent on this year's team. Team chemistry is a very important aspect of the game. If the bobcats work together and combine all of their talent then they should have a lot of success this season.



*The Bobcats in a huddle before a game.*

Captain Katie Sylvia thinks that "this team has incredible potential. We have a lot of individual talent and we have moments of greatness games, but those moments of greatness are done by individual players and not the team as a whole. As soon as we start playing and looking like a team, the six players on the court are going to be unstoppable."

The Bobcats have played seven games so far this season. Their current record is (5-2) with a wins against Laconia, , Coe Brown, Pelham, Somersworth, and Kennett and losses to St. Thomas and Milford. "We are getting better in all aspects of our game. It just takes time to gel and come together as a team.. We write our own destiny by our drive, heart and Bobcat Pride," said Coach Dan Brodeur.

The Bobcats face St. Thomas again and defending champs, Gilford later on in the season. They are going to also face a tough opponent with upcoming games against Portsmouth and Somersworth. If the Bobcats can work together as a team (not six different individuals) this year they can go a long way this season. Once the Bobcats "click" they should be unstoppable.



# SOCCER MID-SEASON REVIEW



**Eliza Mae Brown**  
Sports Writer

"We have the potential to be a great team," says Coach Lynda Nelson of the girls' varsity soccer team. Nelson believes before any predictions of the season are made the team needs to improve on their strengths and weaknesses, focusing on the small things. "All the little details performed on a constant base add up to big things,"

explains Coach Nelson.

With 11 returning players to the team and having lost in the semifinals this past year, the team has more drive than ever. Although many players returned, the team has had many changes and looks almost new. One major change this season has been putting new players in the defense. Coach Nelson and Coach Cyd Scarano believed there needs to be more speed in the defense. They made this possible by moving forwards Kayli Igoe and Allie Harris to the defensive positions of outside back and stopper. They hope this will shut down opposing teams' offensive threats more quickly and begin to counterattack. Along with Igoe and Harris, Becca Murphy was moved back to defense in order to strengthen the defensive wings. According to Coach Nelson, both outside backs, Murphy and Igoe, are capable of scoring 35-45 yards out, making defense have a strong offensive attack as well. In Coach Nelson's eyes, "Defense wins state championships," making this major change the most important for the team's success.

Another change made this season was moving Megan Comeau, a strong center midfielder, to offense. "I'm able to add a different look to our offense and it gives me a chance to shoot more often," says Comeau of her new position. Past seasons, fans watched as Comeau would blast shots from far outside the 18. With Comeau playing of-

*"Soccer is the kind of game where you can out possess and outplay a team and still lose."*

fense she is now able to "make smart runs and create space for the team," explains Coach Nelson.

So far this season the girls are 8-1, with the only loss to Coe-Brown, which was later avenged. They have scored 26 points while only letting in 4 goals. Senior Allie Harris likes the way things have begun, "A four to nothing win against Portsmouth at their own house was definitely a good foot to start off on." Other teams see this as well, which only makes this season harder for Oyster River.

Other schools see Oyster River as a tough competitor and with such a target on their back, they need to bring their "A game" every day, according to senior Molly McQuade. McQuade sees every opponent as competition and says, "No team can be taken lightly."

This seems to be the general consensus on the team. Coach Scarano explains that they never underestimate any opponent, "Soccer is the kind of game where you can out possess and outplay a team and still lose."

Every team has their challenges, and this team is no exception. "One of the areas for improvement is our transition from an offensive attack to playing defense as a team, this needs to be quick and consistent," says Coach Nelson. This was the biggest challenge for Oyster River last year and the coaching staff says they have been focusing very closely on fixing that for this season.

To make a varsity team as a freshman is tough, but for this girls varsity soccer team three freshmen rose to the challenge and made it as well as two more players being pulled up only weeks later. "I absolutely love this team," says Isabelle Todd, a freshman who plays every position. Even as a freshmen Todd still has the same goal as

*"No team can be taken lightly."*



*Celebrating after a goal scored at the season opener against Portsmouth. (Photo courtesy of Scott Richardson)*

everyone else; to win a state championship. "I feel incredibly lucky to be playing with such skilled and determined girls and I think with all this hard work we deserve it too," says Todd.

Coach Nelson wants the team to take everything "one practice at a time and one game at a time." With everyone's goal to win a state championship, both Coach Nelson and Scarano see the potential as well as the areas in need of improvement. Players like McQuade see this as well, "I want to end the season with no regrets, knowing we pushed ourselves as much as we could and left everything on the field."



**Zach Park**  
Sports Editor

## BOYS SOCCER

Disappointment covered the faces of the Oyster River Boys Varsity soccer team as they fell 2-1 in overtime to Bedford in early November. This was the last high school game for eleven seniors but OR had hope moving forward with thirteen returning players. These thirteen were determined to make the 2012 season a success.

The OR Boys look to improve on their 9-6-1 record and a quarterfinal appearance. This could be a difficult task with the loss of four collegiate soccer players. The Bobcats don't return a single player who recorded more than half of OR's 18 games last season. OR fields a whole new starting eleven without much experience.

Despite all of these hurdles, senior captain Zack Jones has hope. "We lost a lot of talent from last year, but this year we play as a team to maximize what we have."

Jones believes that the main reason the team is able to maximize their talent is the new change in playing style. The Bobcats look to possess the ball and work their way up the field with numerous passes. Last season, they attempted to boot the ball up the field almost every time they touched the ball.

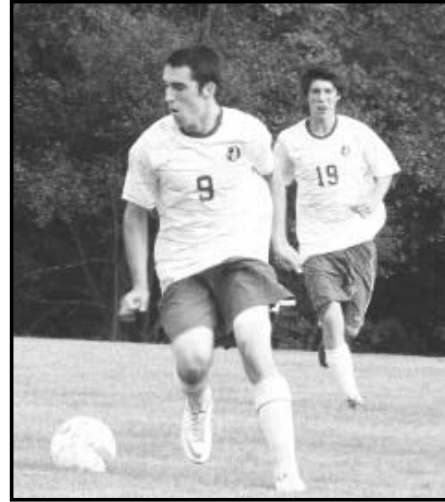
Jones adds that when they the Bobcats are on their game, "There is no reason we can't beat every team in the state." The Bobcats have a ton of confidence this year and are ready for all their challenges.

Athletic Director Corey Parker added, "It looks like team soccer, and the players want to distribute the ball." Parker looks forward for the rest of the season and expects the players to continue to work hard and be successful.

The boys are currently 5-3 and are in 6th place in NHIAA Division II. They started off the season with a tough 2-1 loss in their home opener to their biggest rival, Saint Thomas. Jones scored "the goal of his life" with a curling shot into the top corner from over thirty yards out. He would be outdone as STA

found two quick goals to take the game. The boys responded well with a big 3-2 win over Portsmouth with a clutch performance in net from sophomore Jon Dutka and very timely goals.

*"There is no reason we can't  
beat every team in the state."  
-Zack Jones*



*Senior Seamus Clancy dribbles the ball down the field.  
(Courtesy of Christina Dolcino)*

The Bobcats kept the train rolling as they took down John Stark, 3-1, Kennett, 6-1 and Plymouth Regional, 5-0. They fell once again to Saint Thomas, 1-0, as senior center back Connor Grove was concussed and will definitely miss some time. The Bobcats responded with a big 6-0 win over Merrimack Valley. They fell in a tough 4-3 loss in OT to archrival Coe-Brown.

Oyster River has a habit of trailing games at half time, which has been the case in four of the eight games so far. The Bobcats have been able to come back in three of the four games, but if they want continued success, it is a habit they will need to break immediately. The players realize the issue and are ready to change.

"To be honest, I can't really figure it out. It just doesn't make sense to me as to why we can't start games off well. We need to fix it soon," said junior forward Aidan Conrad.

On a brighter note, versatile senior Seamus Clancy added [regarding the Kennett game where OR trailed 1-0 at half], "We definitely need to start out better but I was never worried at all. It's just a matter of time during the game before we start scoring goals."

Scoring goals has not been an issue for the Bobcats so far. They have posted a league-high 30 goals through their first eight games. Amazingly, these eighteen are distributed through ten different players. OR presents a very balanced attack moving forward.

Looking ahead, the Bobcats still need to play archrival Coe-Brown and will look to revenge that loss. OR will still need to host Hollis-Brookline, currently undefeated, and then go on the road to face Portsmouth, Windham and Souhegan, which should all be tough games. The Bobcats certainly have some games they should win, but they can't overlook anyone and still have plenty of mountains to climb.

The Bobcats have started off the season well and look to continue their good form moving forward. They possess a solid back line with a balanced attack that can strike at any time that should help them going forward. If the Bobcats look to grasp a coveted top four seed (top four seeds don't have to play a playoff game on the road), they will need to win the games they should and come up with some marquee wins over the top level teams. With the determination and teamwork that the boys have, there is truly no reason they can't finish in the top four.